

with huge financial benefits or personal recognition. Smokejumping is a dangerous job undertaken by those with a strong spirit who simply love what they do fighting forest fires.

My home state of Alaska, and the states of many of my colleagues, have been struck by the wrath of forest fires. We often forget the men and women who bravely enter the ring of fire to battle the often times insurmountable flames. These courageous firefighters, known in the industry as smokejumpers, parachute out from DC-3 airplanes as they fly low over acres of intense smoke and flames shooting up from the forest canopy. On top of the physical and emotional danger related to smokejumping, work-related injuries such as broken bones, burns and chainsaw gashes are common but occasionally smokejumping claims the life of one of its own.

Twenty-eight-year-old Bureau of Land Management-Alaska smokejumper David J. Liston loved firefighting, and he died doing what he loved. During a refresher jump April 29, 2000 in Fort Wainwright, Alaska, David's parachute and the back-up chute failed to open. David was returning to work after his honeymoon in Mexico with new wife Kristin; the two were married 21 days earlier, on April 8.

Mr. President, David's dedication to firefighting will be remembered on October 7 by President George W. Bush and First Lady Laura Bush at a Memorial Service at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Emmitsburg, Maryland. David's name will be inscribed on a plaque at the memorial, along with the names of 100 other firefighters who died in 2000. Sadly, after the service, the memorial will bear the names of 2,181 firefighters from 38 states and Puerto Rico. Each family, including David's, will be presented with an American flag that has been flown over the nation's Capitol.

None of us can thank firefighters enough for the work they do everyday. The heroism and bravery we witnessed in the firefighters in New York City, at the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania on September 11, remind us of the courage America's firefighters must embrace daily. Their selflessness and their desire to help others is to be commended, and we always need to remember those, like David Liston, for their service and determination to get the job done.●

EXCELLENCE IN PHYSICAL FITNESS

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to commend the students and faculty at three exemplary elementary schools in the great State of Idaho—Oakley Elementary in Oakley, Ucon Elementary in Idaho Falls, and Oakwood Elementary in Preston. The students' demonstrated excellence in physical fitness has earned them recognition by the President of the United States for their efforts to improve their physical well-being and raise

awareness for this important issue. Obesity among American youth has doubled in the past 10 years, and not only is this unhealthy by itself but can also lead to other physical ailments later in life, such as high blood pressure, type two diabetes, or cardiovascular disease.

Oakley, Ucon, and Oakwood Elementary schools were named "State Champion" schools by the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports and selected based on their outstanding achievement in the President's Challenge Physical Activity and Fitness Awards Program.

I commend these students and their teachers for their commitment to physical fitness. Good habits need to start at a young age and I hope that these students' healthy behaviors will continue throughout their lives.●

TEXAS A&M/CORPS OF CADETS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize with pleasure Texas A&M University on its 125th anniversary. Texas A&M, one of our Nation's finest institutions of higher education, was opened on October 4, 1876 as the Agriculture and Mechanical College of Texas. From its roots of agriculture and engineering, A&M has grown into a world class university that is a leader in university research and development. It also offers an amazing 383 degree-granting programs. Although the university is justifiably proud of its academic reputation, A&M is especially proud of its famous Corps of Cadets.

For 125 years, A&M's Corps of Cadets have provided our State and country with leaders in the military, government and business. Texas A&M has the largest cadet corps outside the U.S. military academies and commissions more officers in all four branches of service than any other university military program. Former cadets have served in every military conflict, from the Indian Wars to Desert Storm. During World War II, 54,000 Aggies served as officers, more than any other school, including the service academies. They have always answered our Nation's call, and they have always met the challenge. Although only a small percentage of Texas A&M's student population, members of the Corps of Cadets are the keepers of the many famous traditions at A&M that contribute to the unique culture and spirit that is "Aggieland." Today, former cadets serve in leadership and frontline forces throughout our military services and will help lead our Nation to success in this 21st century war against terrorism.

Although the military has seen technology move from horse and rifle to spacecraft and lasers, the foundations of our military, leadership and teamwork, remain the same. These traits are the bedrock of the Corps and of Texas A&M University and explain the

success of the University and its graduates. During this most difficult time in our Nation's history, we are all learning the value and strength of A&M's Corps of Cadets motto, *Per Unitatem Vis—Through Unity, Strength*.

On behalf of my colleagues in the United States Senate, and with just and lasting pride, I offer heartfelt appreciation and respect to all the current and former members of the illustrious Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets. I also wish all Aggies around the world a Happy 125th Anniversary.●

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time

S. 1499. A bill to provide assistance to small business concerns adversely impacted by the terrorist attacks perpetrated against the United States on September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

S. 1510. A bill to deter and punish terrorist acts in the United States and around the world, to enhance law enforcement investigatory tools, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, which were referred as indicated:

EC-4293. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to Columbia; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-4294. A communication from the Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a certification for Fiscal Year 2002; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4295. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a nomination for the position of Administrator, Wage and Hour Division, received on October 3, 2001; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4296. A communication from the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Board of Veterans Appeals, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Board of Veterans Appeals: Rules of Practice-Subpoenas" (RIN2900-AJ58) received on October 3, 2001; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4297. A communication from the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Annual Report on Veterans' Employment in the Federal Government for Fiscal Year 2000; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-4298. A communication from the Acting Deputy General Counsel, Office of Financial Assistance, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Business Loan Program and Office of Hearings and Appeals" (RIN3245-AE51) received on October 3, 2001; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC-4299. A communication from the Acting Deputy General Counsel, Office of Financial Assistance, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of